

REMARKS

Applicant's further narrowing of the claims in this Amendment pinpoint the distinction between the prior art and the present invention. The present invention uses the prior art design (pictured in the drawings and described) in modern forward release binding systems that maintain a constant mounting distance between the toe and the heel piece during the automatic release of the binding system in a forward or sideward fall. Above and beyond this industry standard design, Applicant has added a track for either the toe or the heel piece to be mounted on. The track is gas biased to keep the toe or heel piece in the ski position with the standard mounting distance between the heel and the toe piece to properly secure the ski boot. A manually operated remote signal generator sends a signal to a receiver on the ski. The receiver on the ski activates a release of gas from the manual release mechanism. This release of gas allows a spring to force the toe or the heel member to an enlarged mounting distance as compared to the standard mounting distance of the prior art binding system. Claim 25 uses the gas to open up the ski bindings as an alternate embodiment, wherein a spring keeps the bindings in the skiing mode.

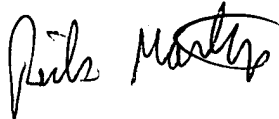
Camp's toe piece moves forward in both the automatic and the manual release mode. No modern ski binding manufacturer has adapted Camp's design for an automatic forward release, step in binding system. Therefore, the Camp design is inherently flawed. Ice, snow and dirt could cause Camp's sliding toe piece design to malfunction in an automatic release in a forward fall, thus causing a life-threatening break of the thigh and/or tib/fib bones. Also Camp's design doesn't accommodate a side force on the boot release as do all the modern step in bindings. No reference uses or suggests using a gas pressure to hold a modern forward release step in ski binding member in the ski position. Sittman, Wunder, and Spitaler merely teach using a gas or the like to actuate a mechanical release assembly on a stationary binding member.

No suggestion exists in the prior art to create a gas/spring powered moving binding member, wherein the gas (or a spring) is used to maintain a standard mounting distance between

the heel and toe piece, and a release of the gas allows a spring to move one (normally stationary) binding member away from the other, or in the alternate embodiment the gas can be channeled from a storage to a biasing chamber to move one binding member away from the other.

The surprise result of the non-obvious combination provides a time-proven forward release binding system with a fixed mounting distance between the toe and the heel piece, plus the added capability to widen the mounting distance via a manually operated remote control device for emergency releases, thus saving crippling injuries when the time-proven forward release system is ineffective.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 1-15-04

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